

BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY

Regular Session Minutes

**March 23, 2011
DHMH
4201 Patterson Avenue #105
Baltimore, MD 21215
10:00 a.m.**

The regular session meeting of the Board of Examiners in Optometry was held on Wednesday, March 23, 2011. Board members present were, Thomas Azman, O.D, Jo Anne Brilliant, O.D., Kisha Fields Matthews, Phyllis M. Strickland, O.D., Stephen Kwan, O.D., and Frederick J. Walsh, Ph.D. and Brian T. Woolf, O.D. Also present was Patricia G. Bennett, Board Administrator and Delia Turano Schadt, Board Counsel. Kecia Dunham, Licensing Coordinator, was not present.

A. Opening of Meeting

Dr. Azman opened the regular session of the Board meeting at 9:42 a.m., introduced and welcomed the Board's newly appointed member, Brian T. Woolf, O.D. Board members and staff introduced themselves to Dr. Woolf.

B. Minutes

The regular session minutes of the teleconference conducted on February 16, 2011 were approved with the following corrections – in the third line of the opening delete the words " from the conference located" and in the fifth line delete Dr. Azman's name which was repeated. Dr. Brilliant moved and Dr. Walsh seconded the motion to accept the minutes with corrections. The Board's vote was unanimous.

C. Committee Reports

1. Continuing Education - Dr. Brilliant

Dr. Brilliant indicated that there was no report.

2. Credentialing- Dr. Kwan

Dr. Kwan stated that there was no report.

3. QEI – Dr. Brilliant

Dr. Brilliant reported she met with Pat Bennett and Kecia Dunham on 2/18/11 to discuss the continuing education project to determine what information was missing. There was a telephone conference with committee members on 3/8/11 to discuss the finalization of the project for dissemination after the close of the renewal cycle in the summer. The committee decided that the hours awarded for the project can be applied toward renewal in either 2012 or 2013. The next committee meeting will be held on May 12, 2011.

4. Rehabilitation- Dr. Azman

Dr. Azman reported that there was current information to report.

Budget – Dr. Strickland

Dr. Strickland reported that the Board's available funds for the FY 2011 expenses are \$78,052.

6. ARBO- Dr. Strickland

Dr. Strickland stated that there was no current information to report.

7. Legislation- Dr. Kwan & Kisha Fields Matthews

There was no current information to report regarding the legislative session.

D. Old Business

1. Regulations

Sanctioning Guideline- Drs. Kwan and Strickland

Drs. Kwan and Strickland reported that they are scheduled to meet following today's Board meeting with Pat Bennett to draft the guidelines and will report to the Board at its May meeting.

2. Legislation

There was no discussion regarding legislation.

E. Administrator's Report – Patricia Bennett

Ms. Bennett reported that renewal notices were sent out in March and the packet included instructions for the online process as well as information for those licensees wishing to renew by mail. As discussed previously, licensees will no longer be required to list their continuing education online. However, those audited will be required to submit either their OE Tracker history or certificates of participation.

The Dedicated State Funds Protection Act failed this session. The bill's intent was to amend the Constitution of Maryland to prohibit the use and transfer of dedicated state funds.

Ms. Bennett reported that the Legislative Auditors had completed their audit of the Boards for the time period of February, 2008 through December, 2010. The final report mainly cited the larger Boards and areas that required corrective action.

Ms. Bennett reported that the focus of Maryland Central Business Licensing project was businesses and not practitioners. A couple of Boards, such as Pharmacy, Morticians, and Nursing Home Administrators may be required to provide more data.

As a result of a recent car jacking on the parking lot, there have been meetings scheduled with staff and building management to address areas of concern and to implement corrective action.

Ms. Bennett reported that the restrictions on travel had changed and some of the other Boards had been successful in getting approval for limited out of state travel. Therefore, she would complete requests for travel for the Board President and Administrator to attend ARBO's Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, UT from June 11 – June 14. The Board had no representation at the Annual Meeting in 2010.

F. New Business

1. Licensees Issued 1/11 – 3/11

Ms. Bennett reported that five licenses were issued during the period. A motion was made by Dr. Strickland and seconded by Dr. Walsh to approve the licenses issued. The Board's vote was unanimous.

2. Guest Presentation – Patricia Gaither, Public Information Officer, Pharmacy Board, was invited by Board Administrator, Pat Bennett to discuss their public relations activities. Ms. Gaither indicated that the Pharmacy Board, its members and staff are very active in the community. They have a Public Relations committee which is comprised of 2 consumer board members and 2 staff. Public Relations is a line item in the budget. Their community outreach includes brochures, newsletters, annual reports, public service announcements, Flower Mart, Maryland State Fair, etc. The Pharmacy Board partners with the School of Pharmacy and the local Pharmacy Association.

Pat Bennett indicated that when the Boards and Commission's Consumer Group was active, Delores Hobbs, former consumer member, was an active participant in providing informational sessions throughout the community about the boards and the complaint process.

Dr. Walsh cautioned the Board that members should proceed cautiously with their level of involvement and commitment as it relates to community outreach. He reiterated that it is the task of the Board to set policy, establish procedure and regulate its licensees.

3. Evaluating Your Consumer Information Program – Pat Bennett presented a survey that was prepared by the National Citizen Advocacy Center several years ago. She stated that board members had completed the survey more than 7 years prior. Ms Bennett indicated that it would be a good exercise for current members to assess the Board's Consumer Information Program. Dr. Azman recommended that members complete the survey in preparation for discussion at the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kisha Fields Matthew, Secretary